

**LANESBOROUGH FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES NOVEMBER 2, 2015**

Attendees: Al Terranova, Stephen Wentworth, Chris Galib, Ron Tinkham, Ray Jones
Also Attending: Paul Sieloff, Town Administrator.

Meeting called to order: 6:01 pm

Public Comment: None forthcoming.

Videotaping of Financial Committee Meetings: The Select Board passed a Motion in favor of videotaping the Finance Committee with this meeting being the first taped. Mr. Terranova indicated he would like further conversation about taping all meetings.

Discussion Topics:

Presentation by the Finance Committee to the Select Board:

- Mr. Terranova prepared a presentation for last weeks' meeting with the Selectmen that covered the goals of the Finance Committee and the Committee's desire to meet with more of the Departments about their budgets, not just the main ones like Schools, Police, Fire.
- Mr. Tinkham expressed concern that the presentation given the week before was not shared with the Committee beforehand. Mr. Terranova agreed but sited being constrained by time and the need to present the goals of the Finance Committee to the Select Board.

Special Accounts within the Town's Budget: It has come to the attention of the Finance Committee that there are numerous accounts that hold donations, funding for special projects, etc. that they feel need to be accounted for properly during the budgeting period. Mr. Sieloff believes Mr. Durwin has a report that the Committee can review containing his accounting of these Special Accounts and he will see that the Committee receives a copy. Mr. Terranova pointed out that knowing the disposition of these funds helps create an economic plan for the Town.

Stabilizations Fund: Mr. Sieloff told the Committee that he plans to request an annual deposit into the Stabilization Fund of at least \$25K to continually build it up for the future. He would like to get the annual deposit to \$50K but is aware of how tight money is.

Budget Letters to Department Heads: Mr. Sieloff reported that he expects to send out the letters to Department Heads at the end of November. He will review the responses and have a report for the Committee after Christmas.

VFW Post in Berkshire Village: The Town supports the work of the VFW food pantry with a budget allotment of \$5500. A letter asking for support from the other Town that benefit from the food pantry program were sent and largely ignored. Concerns about liability have been raised in the past but Mr. Sieloff assured the Committee that the property the VFW occupies is not owned by the Town, eliminating liability concerns. Ms. Galib felt that this budget item is too small to command the Committee's undivided attention.

Town Meeting to Accept the Regional School Agreement and By-Law Changes: Mr. Sieloff reported that the Selectmen have set a meeting date for December 1st at the Elementary School at 6pm to address the Regional School Agreement and some by-law changes. This vote will be on the Williamstown-Lanesborough amendment to change the existing formula used to fund capital

projects. The recommended changes will revalue the bond payment by both Williamstown and Lanesborough on an annual basis rather than on a fixed basis as it now stands.

Ms. Galib moved a Motion, that the Committee is recommending the new Regional School Agreement on the Warrant for the Dec. 1st meeting. Mr. Terranova seconded the Motion. Mr. Wentworth voted in favor, Mr. Tinkham, voted not to accept without more information. The motion passed.

New Business

- **Review of Spending requested by Ms. Galib:** Mr. Wentworth distributed a list of questions about spending practices gleaned from the 2015 Financial Report. Mr. Sieloff addressed those items he was familiar with and will speak with Mr. Durwin on those items that need further explanation. Mr. Terranova commended Mr. Selloff's management over 2015 as well as the additional work being done by Mr. Wentworth and Ms. Galib to understand the Town finances in their entirety. Mr. Terranova requested more user-friendly reports going forward with the new Town Accountant.
- **Fire Truck Grant:** Mr. Sieloff told the Committee that the Town did not get the grant they had applied for and they would have to find other means to purchase the new fire truck.
- **Town Accountant Interviews:** Mr. Sieloff will set up an appointment for Mr. Jones to attend the second round of Town accountant interviews. The Committee discussed the compensation package being offered and extending the overlapping period with Mr. Durwin for the new accountant.
- **Town Meeting:** December 1st all of the members of the Finance Committee are invited to attend. Mr. Jones has a prior commitment. They will not be presenting but may answer questions.

Next meeting: December 7th, 2015 at 6 pm.

Meeting adjourned: Ms. Galib moved a motion to end the meeting at 8:02 pm. Seconded by Mr. Wentworth. All in favor.